

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the City of Portsmouth, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

January 27, 2017 to February 27, 2017

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Certification

DEQ is reviewing a federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The Virginia CZM Program seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/U.S. Coast Guard

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City of Portsmouth is proposing to replace the northbound span of Churchland Bridge (U.S. Route 17). The city is seeking the issuance of permits pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a bridge permit pursuant to Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and General Bridge Act of 1946 from the U.S. Coast Guard. The proposed action includes replacing the northbound lanes of Churchland Bridge. The new lanes and approach ways will be widened to meet existing standards. In addition, the city will construct a shared multi-use path for pedestrians and bicycles. Demolition and construction access will use a temporary construction trestle system located on the downstream side of the northbound lanes. Demolition materials from the existing span, such as concrete and metals, will be salvaged and recycled. Concrete may be used for artificial reef construction and/or augmentation pursuant to Virginia Marine Resources Commission's artificial reef program. The federal consistency certification (FCC) states that fisheries would not be affected. However, the project proposes to impact approximately 96 square feet of vegetated wetlands and approximately 7,124 square feet of non-vegetated intertidal area. According to the FCC, the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Julia Wellman
DEQ Central Office, 6th Floor
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia, 23219
Phone: (804) 698-4326
Fax: (804) 698-4319
E-mail: Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov